Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr2013/04/01 : CIA-RDP82-00047R000100230007-7 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENTECR INFORMATION REPORT DATE DISTR. 21 Feb 1952 COUNTRY USSR 50X1 NO. OF PAGES 4 Ammunition Dump and Airfield in Bryansk-Karachev SUBJECT NO. OF ENCLS. PLACE ACQUIRED SUPPLEMENT TO 50X1 ACQUIRED E REPORT NO. DATE OF INF THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. A large ammunition storage area is located between Bryansk (5313N-3425E) and Karachev (538N-3453E). In speaking of it the residents of Karachev said that it was much larger than

- 1. A large ammunition storage area is located between Bryansk (5313N-3425E) and Karachev (538N-3453E). In speaking of it the residents of Karachev said that it was much larger than the one in Smolensk and perhaps the largest in the USSR. I heard some people say that should the base be blown up an area of 25 kilometers would be destroyed. This storage area was used by the Germans during their occupation. I personally saw only the gates, which are visible from the Karachev railroad station. The railroad station in Karachev is rather small with only about six tracks.
- 2. About 100 meters to the lift of the Karachev railroad station were the gates to the ammunition storage area. These gates were guarded by a soldier armed with a carbine. From the gate, and stretching as far as could be seen, was a barbed wire fence

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along which were posted guards at intervals of 150 to 200 meters. These guards, who were also armed with carbines and who were the usual Soviet Army uniform, were sheltered in small booths at their post of duty. The barbed wire fence was about 300 centimeters high with horizontally parallel strands spaced about six centimeters apart. I heard that the barbed wire fence surrounded the entire ammunition storage area and was similarly guarded. I cannot verify this myself because about one half kilometer from the railroad station was the start of a wooded area which obstructed the view.

- This ammunition storage area allegedly stretches from Karachev to Bryansk, but I do not know its width, inasmuch as it is in a wooded area and not visible from either the railroad line or the highway. In fact, I do not think that it would be visible even from the air because of the forest in which it is located.
- 4. There was a double-track railroad spur leading from the Karachev railroad station through the gates and into the ammunition storage area. As far as I know this was the only entrance, railroad or highway, into the area; if there was another entrance into the storage area I never heard any mention of it.

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amminition storage area, said that the double-track spur leading from the Karachev railroad station was the only line into the area; even trains from Bryansk were routed through Karachev into the area.

in and around Karachey I learned that trains entered and left the ammunition storage area daily. I think that new ammunition was being brought in daily and the older Soviet and captured German ammunition was being replaced. However, there was much more ammunition being brought in than was being shipped out. I do not know the source or the destination of any of the shipments. As far as I was ever able to determine, this area was used strictly for the storage of ammunition of all types, from cartridges to the largest types of shells. I meyer heard, that weapons 50x1 of any type were brought into the area. I did, however, see a large number of artillery pieces of all types in Bryansk II, but I cannot recall any details.

6. From chance conversations with various people I learned that there were a large number of troops located in the ammunition storage area itself-perhaps upwards of a division. Furthermore, about 300 meters north of Karachev was an army garrison which covered an area of two to four kilometers.

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(pogony) I can recall seeing were either black or red. I do not know the designation of any of these military units or the names of any commanding officers. I saw no antiaircraft guns or radar anywhere from Karachev to Bryansk, except for the above-mentioned artillery being stored in Bryansk II.

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Whe railroad from Karachev to Bryansk was double-track before
World War II, but, after its destruction by the Germans during
the war, it was rebuilt as a single-track railroad. I am
cortain that it was single-track because
route in the summer of 1948 and in November of the same year,
trains in Karachev were delayed until the trains from Bryansk
entered Karachev; furthermore, while en route to Bryansk
our train had to pull into a siding a few times to wait for
an oncoming train to pass. The spur leading northeast from
Belyve Berega was for purposes of transporting peat which
was being mined somewhere near the end of the spur to the
electric power station in Belyve Berega (5313N-3441E).

The electric power station in Belyve Berega serviced
Bryanskaya Oblast, including Orel, before World War II. Hewever, after the war it serviced only Bryanskaya Oblast and
not Orel. I am certain that, as of the summer of 1948,
Bryansk had no electric power station of its own but depended
on the one in Belyye Berega for its power. I do not think
that all of Bryanskaya Oblast was serviced by the Belyye
Berega electric power station because Karachev had no
electric power except for a few buildings whose power was
produced locally by a generator. (Even the railroad station
in Karachev had kerosene lamps). The electric power station
in Belyve Berega had six turbines but I never saw or heard
that more than three ever operated at any one time. In fact,
residents in Bryanskaya Oblast often wondered why all six
were not operated, because they could provide more than enough
electric power for the entire oblast. Bryansk seemed to have
been the only city in the oblast with sufficient electric power

three of the turbines, the other three obviously standing idle. This electric power station was left untouched by the war.

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The peat-mining area mentioned was about 20 kilometers north or northeast of Belyye Berega and covered an area of about 900-1000 hectares. This area, which had also been mined before the war, was very rich in peat, reaching a depth of several meters.

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ducted by a single daily shift of eight hours working six days a week. There were about 150 tractors constantly in operation during working hours. The peat was loaded on cars and transported in a steady flow via a narrow-gauge railroad track directly into Belyye Berega. I believe that the electric power station in Belyye Berega depended exclusively for its fuel supply on the peat mined in this area, I do not think any peat was shipped to any destination other than Belyye Berega.

The only industry I know of in the vicinity of Karachev is a plant in Mylinka which is not far from Belyye Berega and located on the Bryansk-Karachev railroad line. It was a lumber-producing plant which permanently employed three shifts of about 72 men each. Local kolkhoz workers assisted, whenever possible, in loading the lumber onto trains. This plant, which obtained its timber from local forests, did not produce any finished products. It was equipped with new machinery because the Germans destroyed all the equipment before they evacuated. Electric power for the plant was provided locally by a generator.

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There is an airfield at Bryansk I and also one at Ryasnik, which is approximately 20 kilometers from Karachev (direction unknown). I think that the former airfield is located southwest of Bryansk I, but I have no details on it. The airfield at Ryasnik was small but was supposed to be enlarged considerably. In 1947, three kolkhozes, representing about 1,500 hectares of land, were appropriated by the Government for purposes of enlarging the airfield. This was the figure I heard mentioned by people living in the vicinity of Karachev. One of these kolkhozes allegedly had approximately 150 dwellings, the second had about 250 dwellings, and the third had about 100 dwellings. I do not know what progress, if any, was made toward enlarging the airfield. While in and around Karachev 1 occasionally heard aircraft flying overhead but cannot recall what type they were. recall what type they were.

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